

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Newly added dependent claims 20-23 depend from independent claim 16, and include subject matter found in original claims 9 – 12, respectively.

In response to the Office Action dated May 9, 2006 holding the subject matter of claims 9-15 to be non-obvious and patentably distinct from that of claims 16-19, Applicant(s) hereby elect the invention of Group II, (upon which claims 16-19 are readable) for further substantive examination.

This election is made without traverse. However, since a restriction requirement is never proper unless the restricted group of claims is patentably distinct (i.e., inter alia, non-obvious under 35 USC §103) from the elected group of claims, the Examiner is requested to insure that such patentable distinctness is present before proceeding to make the requirement final. It is respectfully requested that the non-elected claims be retained for use with a possible divisional application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____ /H. Warren Burnam, Jr./

H. Warren Burnam, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100